

SECRET 10-7 TO 879-145000
9 August 1950

SUBJECT: General PRCHALA

TO : Chief, DTRAPID

At my last meeting with [] they generously pointed out to [] and me the existence of the so-called PRCHALA movement and suggested that our organization should try to use them, especially since they never had any contact with them and only knew that the general himself, living in London, had some contact with the British.

2. Prompted by your request for information on "INTE.RAL", a publication published in Bad Reichenhall, a memo by [] as submitted to you on 17 June. The background of Gen. PRCHALA and his movement was dealt with in detail in this memo and only limited additional information is the subject of this memo.

3. Gen. PRCHALA has received a considerable amount of publicity lately by offering a token force of his trained followers for the Korean war. In the German press of 8 August notices appeared giving details of a pilgrimage on bicycles made by 20 members of the PRCHALA movement from their headquarters at Camp Valka near Nurnburg. In these press releases the German papers gave PRCHALA the attribute of "German friendly".

4. It seems today that Gen. PRCHALA with his experience of the last two years is displaying a new tactical line with the emphasis on the necessary unity of all anti-Communist exiles. Through this he is trying to improve the original impression he made that his movement is trying to fight all existing parties and groups in order to establish some sort of monopoly. This new trend in the movement's political activities became increasingly obvious after the change in the international political situation brought on by the Korean crisis. Emphasizing the military character of his movement they are displaying a determination to fight Communism wherever it exists and the General has offered 6000 of his adherents ready to join UN forces. This is a vastly exaggerated claim but there are, however, several hundred young Czechs

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scattered over a large area receiving para-military training given by former Czech officers who have successfully served under the general. PRCHALA, who has always been more of a soldier than a politician, seems to believe that a military showdown between the East and West would make him emerge as the only capable military commander of Czech units in Western service. For this reason he is anxious to press for exile unity in the face of the danger of imminent general war.

5. The movement as such is called Czech National Group (Ceska Narodni Skupina) and is scattered all over DP camps in Germany and Austria. Most active of the German run camps is VALKA near Murnburg where all newcomers have been placed since 15 October 1949. These newcomers, when eligible for IRO resettlement, are desperadoes and easy prey for PRCHALA's recruiters. Recently the group had a reunion in Ludzigsburg under IRO auspices where great indifference to political efforts of the Czech exile movement are being felt. Besides the Czech National Group there exists another group called the Czech Crusaders. This group has strong Catholic backing and it is believed that they have working contact with the Vatican.

6. The PRCHALAISTS have found allies in Slovak separatists because of PRCHALA's fight against all political fronts without a political line. This fact has probably done more to discredit him with other Czech exile groups than any other single action. However, the General is a strong believer in Slovak autonomy and was an advocate of retribution in the Sudetan-German question. PRCHALA's ambition for a comeback seems to be based exclusively on his military and anti-Communist record which provedly dates back to 1939.

7. The PRCHALA movement uses two mimeographed papers to keep contact with its followers and dissemination of his ideas, The INTEGRAL in Bad Reichenhall and the PRUPLAV in Murnau. Both of these papers lack expert editing and are of rather low character.

8. Rumors have it that the PRCHALA movement has been infiltrated by Communists from Czechoslovakia who pose as right-wing radicals but indications of recent date show that PRCHALA, aware of this fact, has begun to rid himself of such elements.

9. PRCHALA has an excellent military record which does attract most radical young people, and particularly former soldiers. It has been reported that an intelligence group under his command is operating in Murnau under Staff Capt. OPLT and Lt. CAP who, it is believed, are maintaining excellent intelligence contacts with Czech military installations and units.

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10. In conclusion it can be said that General Lev PRERHALA has an excellent military and clean political record in his relations with the USSR. He lacks political experience and has been unfortunate in his choice of his close collaborators. It seems to be the conscientious opinion of the Czechs that the General is of unquestionable value but that this value can not be brought into play until a reconciliation with the Council for Free Czechoslovakia has taken place. Some of the exiles would very much like to see him take this step mainly to outbalance radical leftist forces which are creating a great deal of disturbance in the Council. He is the eventual military leader of any Czech military unit in case of war. Political misuse of such a position would, however, have to be prevented. His military skill and devotion of military men to him might cause the Home Office to consider collaborating with him.

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